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EXAMINER

MORRISON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,313

Applicant(s)

ALBAT ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s).

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,511,904 (Takahashi). In particular, the Takahashi patent meets all of the limitations of claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-13.

Regarding the independent claim 1, Figs. 1, 3 and 4 show an alignment device (including 104 and 105) for aligning a media sheet (18) with a print axis of a printer (i.e., axis of element 42), the media sheet (18) having a leading edge (near 78) and a trailing edge (near 104), the device including at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) for **aligning the trailing edge** (near 104 in Fig.1) of the media sheet (18) in a **direction** that is parallel to the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis of element 42), and a mechanism (103 and 107) for adjusting the alignment of the registration feature (including 104 and 105) so that **the direction** is aligned with the print axis of the printer.

To clarify, claim 1, as now amended, can be interpreted to mean that the mechanism adjusts the alignment of the registration feature so that the direction of the trailing edge of the media sheet is aligned with the print axis of the printer. First, it is

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noted that the dictionary defines the word mechanism as "a. A mechanical device: MACHINE. b. Arrangement of machine parts." Based on this definition, it is the examiner's position that the elements (103 and 107) constitute a mechanism. Also, column 4, lines 18-23 explain that this mechanism (103 and 107) allows the registration member (104 and 105) to be adjusted to different positions, e.g., to accommodate different length sheets. In other words, such adjustment aligns the registration feature (104 and 105) with the trailing edge of a specific length sheet in each position. Finally, it is noted that this alignment of the registration feature (104 and 105) causes the trailing edge of each sheet, which is inserted into the cassette (14), to be aligned with the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis of element 42). More specifically, the trailing edge is aligned parallel to the print axis. See, e.g., Fig. 1 of the Takahashi patent. Accordingly, the Takahashi patent meets all of the limitations of claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, the registration feature (including 104 and 105) is located on a media sheet support surface (shown in Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 4, the media sheet support surface (Fig. 3) is removeably attached to the printer. More specifically, Fig. 2 shows that the entire cassette 14 including the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is removable from the rest of the printer.

Regarding claim 5, the printer accepts media sheets (18) loaded into the printer from above and the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is located above the printer. In particular, the manual insertion guide of Fig. 5 allows media sheets (18) to be loaded from above. Also, Fig. 1 shows that the support surface extends above the printer.

Regarding claim 6, the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is attached to the printer via at least one bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 8, Figs. 1-3 show that the bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3) is adapted to allow the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) in the cassette (14) to be displaced relative to the print axis (i.e., axis of element 42) so that a media sheet (18) aligned to the registration feature (including 104 and 105) can be aligned to the print axis (i.e., axis of element 42). More specifically, Figs. 1-3 show that the cassette (14) with the support surface and the bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3) can be moved relative to the cassette-mounting portion (30) (e.g., can be inserted or pulled out). Also, Fig. 1 shows that when cassette (14) is inserted into the cassette-mounting portion (30), the media sheet (18), which is aligned to the registration feature (including 104 and 105), is also aligned to the print axis (i.e., axis of member 42).

Regarding claim 9, the at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) includes a protruding lip (105).

Regarding claim 10, the at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) includes a groove (near 103 and between protrusions shown in Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 12, Fig. 1 shows that the printer includes a roll feed media compartment cover (including 12) and the at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) is located on the roll feed media compartment cover (including 12). In as much as applicant's registration feature is located on a roll feed media cover, the registration feature (including 104 and 105) of Takahasi is also located on a cover as claimed.

Regarding claim 13, the at least one registration feature includes a proximity sensor (including 26) for detecting the location of the trailing edge of the media sheet (18). See column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 21 and column 8, lines 55-61.

2. Claims 1, 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,350,073 (Mc Cue, Jr. et al.). In particular, the Mc Cue, Jr. et al. patent meets all of the limitations of claims 1, 9 and 12.

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 1 and 5 show an alignment device (including 35) for aligning a media sheet (85) with a print axis of a printer (i.e., axis 92), the media sheet (85) having a leading edge (near 88) and a trailing edge (near 35), the device including at least one registration feature (including 35) for aligning the trailing edge (near 35) of the media sheet (85) in a direction that is parallel to the print axis of the printer, and a mechanism (Fig. 1 and column 6, line 46) for adjusting the alignment of the registration feature (including 35) so that the direction is aligned with the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis 92).

To clarify, claim 1, as now amended, can be interpreted to mean that the mechanism adjusts the alignment of the registration feature so that the direction of the trailing edge of the media sheet is aligned with the print axis of the printer. First, it is noted that the dictionary defines the word mechanism as "a. A mechanical device: MACHINE. b. Arrangement of machine parts." Based on this definition, it is the examiner's position that the structure that allows the registration member (including 35) to slide in and out constitutes a mechanism. Such structure allows the registration member (including 35) to be adjusted to different positions, e.g., to accommodate

different length sheets. In other words, such adjustment aligns the registration feature (including 35) with the trailing edge of a specific length sheet in each position. Finally, it is noted that this alignment of the registration feature (including 35) causes the trailing edge of each sheet, which is inserted into the printer, to be aligned parallel to the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis 92). See, e.g., Figs. 1 and 5 of the McCue, Jr. et al. patent. Accordingly, the McCue, Jr. et al. patent meets all of the limitations of claim 1.

Regarding claim 9, Figs. 1 and 5 show that the at least one registration feature (including 35) has a protruding lip (35).

Regarding claim 12, Figs. 1 and 14 show that the printer includes a roll feed media compartment cover (including 24) and the at least one registration feature (including 35) is located on the roll feed media compartment cover (including 24). In as much as applicant's registration feature is located on a roll feed media cover, the registration feature (including 35) of McCue et al. is also located on a cover as claimed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Japanese Publication No. 59-203017. The Takahashi patent discloses all of the elements, except for the lock.

Fig. 10 of Japanese Publication No. 59-203017 shows that it is well known to provide a sheet handling apparatus with a locking mechanism (including 21c and 700) for securely fastening a sheet holder (including 21) to the sheet handling apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention, to provide the Takahashi apparatus with a locking mechanism in order to securely fasten the paper holder (i.e., with the support surface) to the printer, as shown in Japanese Publication No. 59-203017.

4. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,897,053 (Guy) in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,865,879 (Newhouse).

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 1-4 of the Guy patent show an alignment device for aligning a media sheet (4) with a print axis of a printer (i.e., axis of 12), the media sheet (4) having a leading edge and a trailing edge (Fig. 4), the device including at least one registration feature (20) for aligning the trailing edge of the media sheet (4) in a direction that is parallel to the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis of 12). The Guy patent also discloses that it is desirable to accurately register the edges of sheets with the cylinders of a printing press and that adjustment to pushers (e.g., dogs) is usually needed, e.g., when different size sheets are used. See e.g., column 1, line 26 to column 2, line 25. However, the Guy patent does not specifically show a mechanism for adjusting the alignment of the registration feature (20).

The Newhouse patent discloses that it is well known to provide a feeding machine with a mechanism (including 6 and 3) for adjusting the alignment of a



registration feature (10). See, e.g., Figs. 1-7 of Newhouse. In particular, Newhouse explains that such adjustment facilitates accurate work. See, e.g., column 1, lines 7-19 of Newhouse. Thus, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide the registration feature (20) of the Guy patent with a mechanism for adjusting the alignment of such registration feature, in order to facilitate accurate work, as taught by Newhouse. Providing a mechanism for adjusting the registration feature in the environment of the Guy patent will result in such mechanism adjusting alignment of the registration feature (20) of Guy so that the direction is aligned with the print axis of the printer, as claimed.

Regarding claim 3, Fig. 3 of the Guy patent shows that the registration feature (20) is located on a media sheet support surface (including 21 and 22).

Regarding claim 4, Fig. 3 of Guy shows that at least portion (22) of the media sheet support surface is removeably attached to the printer (i.e., capable of being removed).

Regarding claim 6, Fig. 3 of Guy shows that the support surface (including 22) is attached to the printer via at least one bracket (near 25).

Regarding claim 8, Fig. 3 and column 4, line 54 to column 5, line 3 of Guy disclose that the bracket (25) is adapted to allow the support surface (including 22) to be displaced relative to the print axis so that a media sheet (4) aligned to the registration feature (20) will also be aligned to the print axis (i.e., axis of 12).

Regarding claim 9, Fig. 3 of Guy shows that the at least one registration feature (20) comprises a protruding lip.

Regarding claim 10, Fig. 3 of Guy shows that the at least one registration feature (20) comprises a groove.

Regarding claim 14, Figs. 1-4 of the Guy patent disclose a method of aligning a media sheet (4) to be loaded into a printer (including 12) along a feed path, the sheet (4) having a leading edge and a trailing edge, the method comprising:

loading the media sheet (4) so that the leading edge of the sheet is in proximity to the feed path (Fig. 3).

Also, column 5, line 65 to column 6, line 8 discloses that the media sheets (4) are moved in such a manner that they are in contact with a registration feature (20) which will align the trailing edge of the media sheet (4) to such registration feature (20).

In addition, the Guy patent discloses that it is desirable to accurately register the edges of sheets with the cylinders of a printing press and that adjustment to pushers (e.g., dogs) is usually needed, e.g., when different size sheets are used. See e.g., column 1, line 26 to column 2, line 25. However, the Guy patent does not specifically disclose that the orientation of the registration feature (20) is adjusted in order to align the registration feature with the print axis of a printer.

The Newhouse patent discloses that it is well known to provide a feeding machine with a mechanism (including 6 and 3) for adjusting the alignment of a

registration feature (10). See, e.g., Figs. 1-7 of Newhouse. In particular, Newhouse explains that such adjustment facilitates accurate work. See, e.g., column 1, lines 7-19 of Newhouse. Thus, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to adjust the registration feature (20) of the Guy patent into alignment with the print axis of a printer, in order to facilitate accurate work, as taught by Newhouse.

Regarding claim 16, the examiner takes official notice that it is well known to put a media sheet (4) into a printer (e.g., the printer of the Guy patent), allow the registration feature (20) of Guy to contact the trailing edge of the media sheet (4) and cause such trailing edge to be aligned with the registration feature (20), print one side of the media sheet (4), flip over the media sheet (4), put the media sheet back into the printer of Guy, allow the registration feature (20) of Guy to contact the trailing edge of the media sheet (4) again for alignment purposes, and print the back side of the media sheet (4), in order to print out two pages of material on one sheet and also conserve paper. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to print one side of the media sheet, flip the media sheet over and print on the back side of the media sheet, in order to conserve paper.

***Response to Amendment***

5. Applicant's arguments filed June 20, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to claims 1 and 3-13, applicant argues that "Neither reference teaches or suggests a mechanism for adjusting alignment relative to a print axis of any registration feature that can contact a trailing edge of a media sheet, as claimed."

In response, it is noted that claim 1 recites at least one registration feature for **aligning the trailing edge** of the media sheet **in a direction** that is parallel to the print axis of the printer, and a mechanism for adjusting the alignment of the registration feature so that **the direction is aligned with the print axis** of the printer.

To clarify, claim 1, as now amended, can be interpreted to mean that the mechanism adjusts the alignment of the registration feature so that the direction of the trailing edge of the media sheet is aligned with the print axis of the printer. column 4, lines 18-23 of the Takahashi patent explain that the mechanism (103 and 107) allows the registration member (104 and 105) to be adjusted to different positions, e.g., to accommodate different length sheets. In other words, such adjustment aligns the registration feature (104 and 105) with the trailing edge of a specific length sheet in each position. This alignment of the registration feature (104 and 105) causes the trailing edge of each sheet, which is inserted into the cassette (14), to be aligned with the print axis of the printer (i.e., axis of element 42). See, e.g., Fig. 1 of the Takahashi patent. Accordingly, the Takahashi patent meets the limitations of claim 1 as now amended.

A similar explanation of how the Mc Cue, Jr. et al. patent meets the limitations of claim 1 is outlined in the rejection above. Also, the rejections of the dependent claims are outlined above.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The rejections of claims 14 and 16 in view of the Guy patent and the Newhouse patent are outlined above. Moreover, an explanation of how the combination of the Guy and Newhouse patents reads on claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8-10 is explained above.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on (571) 272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
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